

Remarks/Arguments:

Restriction Requirement

Applicant respectfully submit that claims 1-7, which have been examined in the Office Action of 9/9/05 belong to Species 1-B, not Species 1-A as stated in paragraph 7 of the Office Action. Applicant believe that this inconsistency may be a typographical error as the examined claims (1-7) are those provisionally elected on 8/29/05. However, Applicant further respectfully submit, upon reconsideration, that Species 1-B includes claims 1-9, not claims 1-7 as stated in paragraph 7 of the Office Action. Applicant note that claims 8 and 9 depend from claim 7 and, thus, explicitly include the feature of a series circuit connection. Therefore, Applicant wish to elect claims 1-9, Species 1-B.

Rejected Claims

Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yokoyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,323,507) in paragraph 9 of the Office Action. Additionally, claims 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yokoyama et al. in paragraph 10 of the Office Action. Based on the arguments set forth in paragraph 9, Applicant respectfully submit that the Examiner intended the rejection in paragraph 9 to be based on Abeles (U.S. Patent No. 6,445,724). Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 2, as amended are patentable over Yokoyama et al. and Abeles for the reasons set forth below.

Yokoyama et al. discloses a semiconductor photonic element that includes semiconductor laser 1 and optical waveguide 78 as shown in Figure 15. Semiconductor laser 1 includes cathode electrode 16 that extends under optical waveguide 78 and anode electrode 15 that is not electrically coupled to optical waveguide 78.

Abeles discloses master oscillator vertical emission laser 300b (Figure 4), including a master oscillator that is optically coupled to a vertical cavity amplifier. The master oscillator and vertical cavity amplifier are connected to common electrode 330. The master oscillator is also connected to electrode 331 and the vertical cavity amplifier is connected to electrode 333.

In particular, Yokoyama et al. and Abeles do not disclose or suggest, singly or in combination, at least one feature recited in claim 1, as amended, namely:

...at least one of the semiconductor laser anode electrode or semiconductor laser cathode electrode is electrically coupled to at least one of the amplifier anode electrode or amplifier cathode electrode such that the semiconductor laser and the SOA are electrically connected in series... (Emphasis added)

This feature of the present invention is illustrated in Figures 1A, 2A and 2B.

Neither Yokoyama, et al. nor Abeles discloses electrically coupling a semiconductor laser and an SOA in series as recited in amended claim 1.

In view of this deficiency, Applicant respectfully submit that claim 1 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Abeles. Because claim 2 depends from claim 1, it is also not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Abeles. Additionally, Applicant respectfully submit that claim 1 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yokoyama et al. Because claim 2 depends from claim 1, it is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yokoyama et al. as well.

The prior art made of record but not applied has been considered but does not affect the patentability of the invention.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3-7 have been objected to as being dependent on a rejected claim, but would be allowable if redrafted in independent form.

Claim 3 has been redrafted in independent form to include the features of original claims 1 and 2 from which it originally depended. Applicant note that the Examiner has identified claim 3 as generic to Species 1-A and 1-B. As there is now an allowable generic claim, however, examination of Species 1-A, claims 10-12, is respectfully requested.

As set forth above, claim 1, as amended, is in condition for allowance. Because claims 4-9 depend from claim 1, they are no longer subject to objection as being dependent on a rejected claim.

Canceled Claims

Claims 10 and 13-22 have been canceled.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objections to claim 3-7 and the rejections of claims 1 and 2. Further, Applicant request consideration and allowance of claims 8, 9, 11, and 12.

Respectfully submitted,



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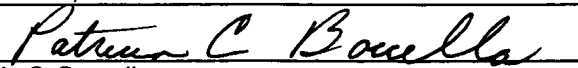
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